

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 13-23 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. All prior (original) claims have been cancelled. Claim 13 is the single claim presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/AU2003/001355, filed October 14, 2003, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of corresponding Australian patent applications, filed November 18, 2002; and April 28, 2003.

By the present amendment, prior Claims 1-12 have been cancelled and substituted by new Claims 13-23, which have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice.

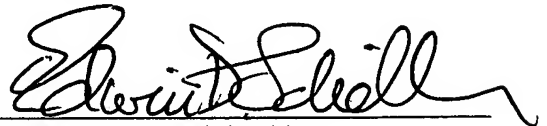
A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is also enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 10, 2005

Enc.: Abstract of the Disclosure

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pallet for use within a sea freight container includes a chassis, which has a locomotion device, such as wheels or a roller, enabling it to be moved into, and out of, the container, and at least one locking device to immobilize the pallet within the container. A first locking mechanism is pivotally mounted on a leading edge of the pallet and can be rotated outwardly from the chassis and engage side walls of the container. A second locking mechanism may be provided on a trailing edge of the pallet, which includes a screw member which can be screwed out to engage side walls of the container. A third locking mechanism may, preferably, be included which has an extensible member to abut one or more rear doors of the container. These locking mechanism maintain the pallet securely in a fixed location within the sea freight container.